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were small and had only one master or mistress to provide for. They are, however, on the contrary, chiefly large schools; requiring, probably, in most cases, both a master and mistress. The total number of children provided for in these 107 schools is 20,409, giving an average of 190 to each. Of these—

20	are to have less than	100 children.
40	, , between	100 and 200 children.
47	, , , ,	200 and 500 children.
<hr/>		
107		

But as regards expected income, to meet current expenses as well as salaries,—

47	estimate their income at less than	50%.
27	, , , , between	50% and 80%.
11	, , , , , ,	80% and 100%.
22	, , , , only, above	100%.
<hr/>		
107		

In other words, while of the above schools 81 per cent. are to consist of from 100 to 500 children, nearly the same proportion, or 79 per cent., can only calculate upon incomes under 100%. It is quite clear, therefore, from this statement, that the standard of remuneration, as above exhibited, is still far below what is requisite to secure the services of masters, properly qualified for the important duty of conducting the elementary education of the country.

Some Observations on the Book Trade, as connected with Literature, in England. By G. P. R. JAMES, Esq.

It is more difficult to obtain any correct statistical notions regarding the commercial relations of literature than to give a clear view of any of the ordinary transactions of trade. Two very powerful motives combine to involve the book trade in mystery—vanity and self-interest; and very keen eyes indeed are required to penetrate the veil which has been studiously cast around most of the transactions connected with this subject, and see distinctly all that lies beneath. Under these circumstances, the present paper can but aim at approximations on some points, while on the others it must leave the ground untouched.

Except on one point, and that one of minor importance, the interests of authors and publishers are identical; and yet a very false ground has been taken on both sides, which has led to equal injury to publishers, to authors, to the public, and to literature itself. The single point on which, even under a very narrow view of the subject, the interests of the two classes, authors and booksellers, are opposed, is the proportion of the profits proceeding from literary exertion which each should receive; and though it is not our intention here to enter upon any of the invidious topics which arise out of this point of opposition, it has been necessary to show clearly that such a point does exist, and whereabouts it lies.

The multiplication of books by the art of printing of course changed the whole system of literary remuneration. Previously to the invention

of that art, the system of copying by hand, while it raised the value of each manuscript of any celebrated work, required no great outlay on the part either of the author or the copyist, and few, if any, copies were made upon mere speculation. But as soon as we had learned to employ moveable types, the great object of obtaining a number of copies with little more labour than was at that period required to produce one, immediately generated the system of speculating upon a future demand, and of producing more copies than those already ordered, or of which the sale was secure. The bookselling business thence became completely a new trade, which rested almost entirely upon the speculation of how many copies of each particular work the public was likely to buy, and upon this calculation naturally depended the expenses to which the owner of a work would go. The expense was frequently great, especially at periods when paper was very dear. The author of a work could frequently ill afford to encounter that expense, and thus rose up that trade in which a sort of double speculation is made by the bookseller, in calculating, first, the sum which he ought to give to the author for the right of publishing his work, and secondly, the amount which he ought to spend in hand labour and materials.

A publisher's expenses, then, remain to the present day divided under these two heads—remuneration to the author, and cost of publication. The latter head comprises at present a number of incidental expenses, some of which, of considerable magnitude, were not known to the earlier publishers. In general they are as follows: printing, paper, hot or cold pressing, stitching, boarding, advertising, besides the usual shop and warehouse expenses. The most heavy items, however, are the printing, paper, and advertisement. The printing divides itself again into two heads, composition and press work; the former being a fixed expense of so much per sheet, the latter varying according to the number printed; and thus the proportionate cost per copy of each work diminishes as the number increases. The expense of paper, however, has always been one of the heaviest, and is so still, although the price of that commodity has very greatly diminished. But the most severe tax upon booksellers in general is that of advertisement, which has grown up more from custom than necessity, which no one can doubt has been carried to a vicious extent, but which cannot be reduced except by general consent, as, merit being equal, there can be no doubt the work most extensively advertised will meet with the largest sale. In saying that advertisement has been carried to a vicious extent, I mean merely to speak of legitimate advertisement, for the purpose of making generally known the fact of a book's publication. But we must not fail to notice a system, almost universal, and having for its object to call the public attention to particular works by commendatory paragraphs, either extracted from reviews or manufactured in the offices of publishers themselves. This forms another, and often a heavy item in the expenses of publication; and coincident with this is the system of sending copies of each work to various public journals for the purpose of obtaining favourable notice in their columns.

Such being the different items of expense attendant upon the publication of works in England, we may as well make some comparison, though we cannot do so very accurately, between the cost of production in England and other countries, before we proceed to fresh branches of

this subject. For this purpose we will take an ordinary octavo volume of the form called demy, such as is usually employed for historical works in England, and we will calculate the edition at 1,000. The cost of producing in this country one volume of 26 sheets, or 416 pages, comprising composition, press-work, and paper of a good quality, without calculating stitching, boarding, advertisements, or any of the publication expenses, will vary from 99*l* to 110*l*., corrections not included. In Belgium, the cost of producing the same volume will be from 74*l*. to 86*l*. At the latter price the printing will be beautiful and close, and the paper thick and of a fine quality. The difference in the cost of production, in short, as far as we have been able to ascertain it, between England and Belgium, ranges between 22 and 25 per cent. The cost of producing in England a post octavo volume, that is to say, the size in which romances are generally published, will vary from 65*l*. to 70*l*. per 1,000 copies. The cost in France and Belgium is very nearly in the same proportion of about 22½ per cent. less than in England. The price per volume in England of a work by a good author, published on good paper, is 10*s*. 6*d*., and in France ordinarily from 7 francs 10 centimes to 8 francs, or from 6*s*. to 6*s*. 4*d*.—from 40 to 43 per cent. less. This would seem an enormous difference; but we have shown that the cost of production is 22½ per cent. more in England, which will reduce the difference to 20½ per cent. as its highest term. An allowance is then to be made for the excessive amount of advertisements which the usages of England require, and also for the difference of price in every article of first necessity in England and France in order to put authors and publishers exactly in the same position in the two countries. When these deductions have been fully made, a difference of somewhat more than 10 per cent. will still be found between the price of books in England and in France; and it becomes a matter of legitimate inquiry why are books relatively 10 per cent. dearer in England than on the continent, and ought they to be so. The answer made to this inquiry usually is, that the sale is so much greater in France as to afford very much greater compensation, both to authors and booksellers, in that country than they can obtain in England, even with the additional 10 per cent. of which we have spoken. The fact is undeniable, as we shall soon proceed to prove; but whether the inference drawn from it, that it is right, even in a commercial point of view, to fix that additional 10 per cent. upon the price of books, is more than doubtful.

Although it is impossible for us to state the number of copies of popular works that are sold in France, so as to make a comparison with the numbers sold in England, where perhaps it might be equally difficult to arrive at the facts, yet we have received from a source on which we can rely such statements regarding the remuneration to French authors as will at once show that the sale of books in that country must be infinitely more extensive than in our own. We shall therefore proceed to give some facts in regard to the sums received by authors, for the purpose of proving the great sale which works must have in France, and then direct our inquiries to the causes of the comparative insignificance of the book trade in England.

There are two ways, we are told, of remunerating authors in France. The first and most ordinary with writers of no great repute is to fix a certain sum per copy and volume printed, varying from one to two francs.

Thus for a work of one volume, of which an edition of 2,000 copies is printed, an author of no high repute would gain from 2,000 to 4,000 francs, or from 80*l.* to 160*l.*, and if of more than one volume at the same rate. These volumes are generally in 12mo., and it is necessary to remark that each volume in this calculation does not contain more literary matter than one-half an ordinary English volume, post octavo. Thus for a composition equalling in extent one volume of an English romance a French writer of the second or third class gains from 160*l.* to 320*l.*, as much, or more, than the most celebrated writers in England can obtain per volume for their works. At the first outset of their literary career the famous Balzac and the no less famous George Sand were paid at the rate of two francs per volume for every copy printed, yielding them a profit of about 8,000 francs for each work. But as their reputation increased and their fame spread this system was abandoned, and very large sums indeed have been given for the copyright of various works by each of these authors. Thus we are credibly informed, that for a work in two volumes, in amount of literary matter not more than one volume of an English romance, Balzac can at any time command the sum of 30,000 francs, or more, which is a much higher rate of remuneration than has ever been obtained by any English writer. We find that Chateaubriand, for the copyright of his complete works, after the first sale of many of them was past, received from the publisher, L'Advocat, the sum of 500,000 francs, or 20,000*l.*, and we are assured he once asked 100,000 Prussian dollars, or about 15,000*l.* for his memoirs alone. Monsieur de Lamartine received from the publisher, Gosselin, 80,000 francs, or 3,200*l.* for his *Voyage en Orient*, or *Travels in the East*, and 20,000 francs, or 800*l.* for his *Harmonies Poétiques*. Victor Hugo's drama of *Hernani* produced 12,000 francs, or 480*l.*, by the sale of the first and second editions, besides all the profits derived from the representation on the stage, which have been calculated at about 2,000*l.* Henri III., brought in to Alexandre Dumas, a very inferior writer, 30,000 francs, or 1,200*l.* Besides these we might cite the celebrated work of Monsieur Thiers, the *History of the French Revolution*, which was sold for a larger sum than any we have named, and also the *History of the Consulate*, sold, before it is written, for more than the *Revolution*.

These facts will prove the immense difference that exists between literature as a profession in France and in England; for it is not too much to say that there is no author now living in this country who could obtain 500*l.* per volume for any prose work; and the general rate of remuneration to British authors, as compared with those of France is about one to five, nor does even this proportion hold good in the higher classes of literature, but merely in the lighter but more popular species of production. Poetry has no sale; history, as compared with the time, labour, and expense required for its production, is an absolute and serious loss; and the only two classes of books which have any very extensive sale are works of prose fiction, and works of education. Amongst the writers of prose fiction, a very few of the most celebrated receive considerable sums, but, in proportion to the literary matter produced, certainly not more than one-fourth of the sums received by French authors of the same degree of celebrity. It must also be recollected that the great facility of the French language renders the act of composition much

more rapid to the French author than to the English one. Thus Victor Hugo has been known to compose a work calculated to produce to him more than 2,000*l.* in twenty-one days. Monsieur de Vigny wrote his *Chatterton* in seventeen nights; and Alexandre Dumas, a drama, in three acts, in eleven days. The sum given for *Lalla Rookh*, undoubtedly one of the most popular poems that ever was published, namely, 3,000*l.*, is now spoken of in England as one of the marvels of past days, when the bookselling trade was at its very height. Such is the state of literary remuneration in England, and it is very important indeed to inquire what is the cause of a fact so lamentable, for we believe that it is but fair to assume that this state is lamentable, and that the depression of intellectual industry can never be for the benefit of the nation.

First let us ask whether literary men share in the same proportion in the profits of their works as is the case in France. Perhaps not, for it will be seen that the ordinary remuneration in France is for every copy published two francs out of seven francs ten centimes, the selling price of the work, or four-fifteenths, although men of high literary repute receive very much more in proportion, while in England it cannot be reckoned at more than one in four at the very utmost. But, nevertheless, there is every reason to believe that the want of sufficient remuneration to literary men in this country does not in any great degree depend upon the profits between themselves and the booksellers being unequally distributed, but rather upon the actual depression of the book trade. This depression, in a mere commercial point of view, is a very great evil, for it must be recollected that it is not alone the literary man and the bookseller who are affected by it, but the printer, the paper-maker, and all the manifold artisans engaged in the preparation and sale of new works.

What does this depression proceed from? Is it that the literature of England is inferior in itself to that of the rest of the world? Is it lower in its character and its objects? Is there less talent employed in this sphere of action? Or is it that the British public have naturally less taste for literature? Are we a less reading people?

Or, again, are there any physical obstructions constantly acting against the advance of this branch of commerce in our own country totally independent of the qualities of the writers and the character of the public? It is scarcely necessary to point to the various names which have adorned, and do still adorn British literature, in order to show that the want of demand for books does not in the slightest degree depend upon any want of talent in the literary men of the country, although certain causes, which we shall speak of hereafter, may prevent them at present from exerting their abilities to the utmost extent by rendering it directly contrary to their interest to do so. But at the same time their works even at present do not shrink from comparison with the productions of any other nation, and those of some five or six of our living authors may be said to be more generally translated into foreign languages than the works of any other country. Neither can the state of depression which we speak of be said to proceed from any peculiarity in the national character which indisposes the public to read. On the contrary, we are pre-eminently a studious and thoughtful people, and if, perhaps, inferior to the Germans in this respect, certainly superior to the French in all those qualities of mind which require literary food. Gaiety, amuse-

ment, conversation, are much more the natural objects of a Frenchman, and occupy more of his time; so that there is no reason whatsoever to suppose that the national mind of Englishmen is unsusceptible of enjoying to the highest pitch the pleasures of literature. Neither is it, as has been sometimes supposed, that the persons who speak and understand our language are less in number than those who understand French, which causes the lamentable difference between the book trade of the two countries; for if we take in the East and West Indies and our various colonies, the number of British subjects using our own tongue will be found greater than that of the subjects of France; and though there may be a larger body of the subjects of other states who speak the French language, we must recollect that both in the case of French and English books, foreigners are supplied almost entirely by the piratical publishers. Such being the case it would seem necessary to look for the chief causes of the great inferiority of the book trade in England when compared with that of France to some artificial impediment to its natural progress either in the system of conducting it or the circumstances which surround it. The most apparent of those impediments are, perhaps, the following:—1. Price. 2. The multitude and variety of newspapers. 3. The course pursued by the various literary journals. 4. The want of due protection at home and abroad against foreign pirates. 5. A total want of encouragement to literature on the part of the government.

In regard to the first of these impediments, viz., price. This has undoubtedly some effect in decreasing the sale of books in England, and we believe that the price might be lowered with advantage to the author, the bookseller, and the public. But in comparing the state of the book-trade in England with that in France, we cannot allow much for the difference of price, having shown that books are relatively but 10 per cent. dearer in this country than they are with our neighbours. Nevertheless the public feels in some degree aggrieved at the price of books in this country, knowing that Government have relieved the paper-makers from a considerable part of the excise duty; that paper has, in consequence of this and other circumstances, fallen greatly in price; but that the public has not been suffered to benefit in the slightest degree by this diminution. Neither has the decrease in the duty upon advertisements produced a corresponding decrease in the price of books. This, however, may be accounted for in some degree by the effects of the system of piracy, which we shall have to speak of hereafter, and which has been gradually extending almost to the total destruction of British literature. The second cause we have mentioned is the immense sale of our innumerable daily and weekly journals, which present to the reading public such a mass of valuable and interesting matter as to occupy a great portion of that time which would otherwise be spent in reading books. The third cause we have mentioned is the course pursued by the literary papers. The habit which most journals have of receiving every new publication as it appears, and of giving both an outline of the story and long extracts from the work, (a custom much more general in this country than in France,) certainly does diminish the general sale of books, though where properly exercised it may direct the attention of the public to the higher and better works as they are published. It unfortunately happens, however, that many persons who read do so merely

for the purpose of keeping themselves up to the current of information so as to bear their part in conversation, and for this purpose the critical sketches we have mentioned are quite sufficient, without the trouble or expense of reading the works that are the subjects thereof. It is impossible, however, ever to wish that a stop should be put to this practice, as fair criticism is always desirable, and itself forms a valuable branch of national literature. The fourth cause is the want of due protection both at home and abroad against foreign piracy, which exists to a most ruinous extent, as we shall proceed to show. The circumstances under which this nefarious traffic is carried on are as follows :—The law which ensures to every British author an exclusive right of publishing his own works for a certain period has been found perfectly effectual against piracy in Great Britain. Shortly after the peace, however, a bookseller in Paris commenced a system of republishing all popular English works ; ere long another adopted the same course in the French capital, and the system has been subsequently adopted by numerous publishers in other countries. At first it would appear that the pirated editions of these works printed on the continent was intended solely for the supply of English travellers and residents abroad ; but very speedily the publishers saw the means of profitably extending their sale, and measures were taken for throwing great numbers of these works into the British colonies, the Channel Islands, and England itself. The means resorted to have been various. All the ordinary modes of smuggling have been employed, but especially that of sending over the works in sheets placed in layers between sheets of French works, and as it is impossible to expect that custom-house officers should examine every sheet in a large bale, which pays duty by weight, this method has been very successful. As, however, there can be no doubt of the fact that the moment a copy of one of those reprints reaches England, it is a piracy in the eye of the law, and is subject to seizure and confiscation, means might have been taken to stop the sale of these pirated editions in England, had not a most unfortunate arrangement been made with the customs by which the officers were permitted to pass a single copy of each of these pirated works in the baggage of travellers coming from the continent. Thenceforward the British author and publisher lost all check upon the pirated editions. It was easy at any time to say when a pirated work was found that it was imported as a single copy by permission of the customs. The difficulties of conviction were increased in an infinite proportion, and it became scarcely worth while to seek for or prosecute the perpetrators of the fraud upon the British bookseller. The means, too, of sending over the works by single copies was in reality adopted even to a greater extent than the more precarious one of smuggling. The Government justified the fraud to the extent of a single copy of each work ; the barrier was broken down, and the trade was carried on to a degree that is scarcely conceivable. The sale of English editions of popular works in our colonies is utterly at an end, and at one port alone, between Michaelmas, 1840, and Michaelmas, 1841, inclusive, upwards of 1,500 copies of British works were shown by the register of the custom-house of that port to have entered under favour of the Treasury Minute, which permitted the importation of single copies in travellers' baggage. It must be remarked, however, that the register did not by any means indicate the full number of works imported, for as these pirated editions paid the

highest duty upon books, the officers regarded it merely as a measure of finance, and constantly weighed the pirated works with the others, bearing the same rate of duty, without much examination. Thus the writer of this paper two years ago imported 25 volumes of pirated works which paid the duty but were never registered at all ; and it would not be too much to estimate that the number actually imported under favour of the Treasury Minute was three times the number shown by the register. Thus if we consider that 1,500 copies were registered at one port alone, and that the real number must have been three times the apparent number, what must have been the importation through all the ports on the British coast and in our various colonies, and what must have been the detriment to the British book trade by this tolerated fraud ? To calculate the loss, also, which that important branch of our national industry has sustained, even in the home and colonial demand, by the republication of popular English works by foreign printers, we must add the numbers smuggled to those openly introduced in single copies.

The effect of this system upon British authors and publishers may be judged by the fact that within three days, or four at the most, after a popular English work has reached Paris, it is reprinted verbatim and sold at once at one-sixth of the English price. Two other editions are printed in Germany, sometimes three ; an edition in Belgium ; and innumerable editions in America. Each country fastens upon that portion of the British dominions most within reach, and employs means to supply it immediately with the work to the loss of both British author and publisher. The chief if not the entire sale of popular works in England is confined to circulating libraries and book clubs, and averages from 500 to 2,000 copies of each work ; the first being a good sale for a work of tolerable merit, the second an extraordinary sale for the work of a very popular author. How this sale is injured by the constant influx of the foreign reprints may be easily understood, and the fact is notorious that all the circulating libraries upon the coast, and for nearly 40 miles inland, together with a great number of the small libraries round London, are supplied entirely with these pirated editions. The strong representations which have been lately addressed to government have induced the Treasury to make a slight modification in regard to the importation of single copies in travellers' baggage. It is now required that a book of this description should be cut open and apparently used before it can be suffered to pass ; but this measure has been proved to be totally inefficient in stopping the introduction of these works for circulating libraries ; for the simple process of boarding, to which they are all subjected as soon as received by a keeper of a circulating library, renders them just as good for all his purposes as if they had never been touched, even if they are what is termed dogseared before he receives them. Nothing, in short, but absolute and total prohibition will ever have the effect of diminishing, in any important degree, the introduction of these works into Great Britain itself, or will enable the custom-house officers of our colonies to stop the unlimited influx of the pirated copies which has at present totally annihilated the trade in the genuine editions.

More than 380 volumes, each of them containing one or more works, have been published by Messrs. Baudry and Galignani, in Paris. We have every reason to believe that dépôts of these works have been

formed at Calais, Boulogne, and all the sea-port towns of France. The publishers openly advertise that they will deliver these works in England, at a charge for the carriage, amounting to 10*d.* per volume, and as each traveller is permitted to bring over a single copy of each work, an order from London for one copy of the whole collection will amply repay the piratical publishers for sending over a clerk as a traveller to introduce that single set as a part of his baggage, as the charge for carriage would amount to no less than 15*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, which would pay the whole expenses of his journey to Paris and back, and give him more than a guinea a-day for trouble. We do not say that this is done, but we do say that it may be done any day, and that according to the existing regulations, the books may be in a perfectly fit state for the use of a circulating library, book club, or even private individual who intends to have them boarded or bound, without the possibility of the custom-house officers refusing to pass them. It is also a well known fact that sums are continually given to the poorer classes of travellers between the continent and England to take single copies over for the use of circulating libraries. The system is, in short, thoroughly organized, and it is not too much to say that there are as many copies of a foreign reprint sold in England, as there are of the English edition. This is one of the great cankerworms which have eaten into the heart of the British book trade, and although it may be said in answer to this, that the fact of these foreign piracies does not affect the comparison between England and France, inasmuch as French works are universally pirated by foreign booksellers also, yet we must contend that England suffers infinitely more from many circumstances. In the first place, France has not one-tenth part of the number of subjects non-resident upon her actual soil that England has; in the second place, her colonies are infinitely smaller and fewer in extent; and in the third place, the introduction of pirated copies into any part or dependence of that kingdom is totally prohibited and guarded against with the utmost strictness and severity: and thus, while the piracy of English works besides supplying all the foreigners who read English, supplies an infinite number of British subjects in every part of the world, and in England itself, the piracy of French works supplies not so much Frenchmen as foreigners who read French. Consequently, the system affects British authors and publishers to a much greater extent than it injures the literary men and booksellers of France. There is every reason to believe also, that by greatly diminishing the sale it has raised, and keeps up the price of books in England, as without renouncing all remuneration for copyright whatsoever, the British bookseller can enter into no competition with the foreign piratical publisher, and is consequently obliged to compensate for the decreased sale by the increased price of the books themselves. At all events it is certain that since the general piracy of English works commenced the price of books has greatly increased in England.

To remedy these evils, a Bill was brought into Parliament and passed some years ago, for enabling ministers to treat with foreign powers, in regard to the mutual protection of copyright. The intentions of Parliament in this respect have never been carried out to a satisfactory conclusion. So little, indeed, do the French government seem to have been made aware of the views of Great Britain on this question, that in a letter just received from one of the most enlightened and respectable

men in Europe, Monsieur A. Firmin Didot, the following sentences occur. "The French book trade proposed the recognition of literary property without even exacting reciprocity (from other nations). That which prevented the adoption by the French Chambers of the reciprocal recognition of literary property between France and England was the fear of seeing England receive the Belgian piracies of French works." Thus the government of France could never have been made fully aware of the views and purposes of the British legislature in passing the Act to which we refer, or such an apprehension could not have been suffered to exist for a moment in the French Chambers. It is very possible that impediments, of which we know nothing, may have prevented the two Governments from opening their views fully to each other upon this subject; but the impolicy of any unnecessary delay upon the part of Great Britain may be judged from the following calculation of the loss which this country has sustained. Galignani and Baudry have reprinted 380 volumes of English works; about 100 volumes have been reprinted by other French piratical publishers. Of these volumes, each weighing one pound, 2,000 copies have been printed at the lowest average. Thus, in France alone, 960,000 lbs. weight of foreign paper has been employed, which in England would have paid a duty of 6,000*l.*, even at the present low duty. In Germany, America, and Belgium, a much greater amount has been lost; and in fact, taking the whole of the various piratical editions of English books, which are published throughout the world, including the newspaper editions of America, in which a popular work of three volumes is printed and sold for 25 cents; it has been computed that at least eight times the quantity of paper, and more than eight times the quantity of labour is employed by foreigners in reprinting English works than is employed by English booksellers in producing the genuine editions.

The last great impediment which has acted to keep the book trade of Great Britain behind the rest of the world has been the want of all encouragement to literature by the government of the country. In France, for two centuries, every effort has been made by monarchs and statesmen to elevate, honour, and reward literary merit: posts, offices, distinctions, and recompenses have been showered upon the heads of deserving authors: the people have been taught, from the time of Cardinal Richelieu up to the present day, to consider their literature as a part of their national glory, and to rank their literary men with their heroes and their statesmen. In England nothing has been done at all. We shall not pause long upon this part of the subject, as the whole details of a statistical character may be very briefly summed up. In France every man of merit has been rewarded and honoured; in England, two have met with some distinction in a very long lapse of years. No one can doubt that the unceasing care and attention bestowed upon the interests of literature, and the importance attached to them in France ever since the reign of Louis XIII., has been the cause not only of producing books to read, but of producing the taste for reading them; and this is, undoubtedly, one of the reasons why sums can be given by French booksellers for works to be sold at a comparatively small price, which English booksellers could in no degree afford. In England, on the contrary, literature has received no encouragement whatever. It has

always been in a very low state, has never advanced in proportion with other branches of industry, and has of late rapidly and constantly declined.

It has been contended that no benefit would accrue to literature, even if such encouragements as distinctions and rewards were bestowed upon literary men. But before such an assertion is made the experiment ought to be tried. It has been so in other countries, and uniformly with success. In England it has never been tried at all; the importance of a healthy national literature has been misappreciated by every successive government, and utter indifference has been displayed towards the best interests of letters. It is not that this minister or that has shown a dislike to literature; it is, that collectively all have done worse. We speak not of any particular period of history, but during its whole range they have set the nation an example of treating it with cold contempt. We have no reason to believe that they have doubted, and considered and pondered whether honours and rewards, and instant attention to cases of complaint, and active exertions to protect from aggression, are really better for literature than leaving it to fight its own battles and do the best for itself; but almost all ministers and statesmen in this country have been indifferent to it altogether, have undervalued its importance as a part of the national glory, and have misappreciated its influence upon mankind.

Real Property, Population, and Pauperism in England and Wales.

THE following Tables have issued from the office of the Poor Law Commissioners during the past year, and contain materials of the greatest interest at the present moment, and of a permanent value sufficient to claim a record in these pages. All except the second are contained in the Appendix to the Eighth Annual Report of the Commissioners. It is not to be supposed that the real property of the country is assessed at its full value to the poor's rate; but improved assessments have brought the present statement so much nearer to accuracy than any already adduced, as to permit an attempt to estimate the per centage of the poor's rates upon the rental, and the total riches or poverty of each county by the proportion which the rental bears to its population and acreage. Still this statement of the rental is much more valuable for the purpose of comparing one district or period with another, than as accurately describing the actual value of the assessable property.

In the agricultural counties, the usually high poor's rates are now augmented by the congestion of a population which cannot find employment for its rapidly multiplying numbers in the towns, as the generally stationary amount of the agricultural population proves that it would, under a more prosperous state of industry. The value given to the poor lands of the northern counties in the neighbourhood of manufactures is very remarkable; and not less so is the great excess of population over assessable property in the mining and manufacturing counties, as compared with the others; showing how immediately dependent the fate of all property there, is upon the profitable employment of a population which must either be working the capital and buying the produce of the land, or eating up both. It is quite obvious, however, that this population are not habituated to fly at once to the poor's rate, or a much more serious result would be exhibited.